

Royal Decree

No. 73/92

Issue of the law of fighting infectious diseases

We, Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman.

After perusal of the State Basic law promulgated by the royal decree No. 26/75, that issued the law of regulating the State's System as amended, and the law number 8/73 regarding infectious diseases

And in accordance with the public interest,

Have decreed as follows:

- 1. Article 1:** In consideration of fighting infectious diseases, the attached law provisions shall be applicable.
- 2. Article 2:** To be abolished the infectious disease law No: 8/73 as above referred to and all that contravenes with the attached law or contradicts its provisions.
- 3. Article 3:** The Royal Decree shall be published in the official Gazette and shall come into force with effect from the day of its publication.

Qaboos Bin Said

Sultan of Oman

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Law of fighting infectious diseases

Article (1): To be considered as infectious disease, any disease listed in the schedule attached to this law, and the Minister of Health, through sole decision, has the right to amend this schedule as for addition or cancellation or to transfer from part to another in this schedule.

Article (2): If someone suffers or deemed to have suffered from one of the infectious diseases, or a carrier to viruses causing such infectious diseases, he should be reported to the nearest health establishment through using the form determined by the Minister of Health according to the following timings:

24 hours: For the diseases comprised within the 1st section
One week: For the diseases comprised within the 2nd section
20 days: For the diseases comprised within the 3rd section

Article (3): Persons responsible for reporting as mentioned in the previous article are in the order as mentioned below:

- a. The doctor who examines the patient.
- b. The official in the health establishment where the disease is discovered.
- c. The staff in the laboratory where the specimen proving the disease is checked.
- d. The paterfamilias of the patient or that who provides support and shelter or that who extends help thereto.
- e. The employer or official in charge if the disease is discovered in one of the industrial or commercial establishments or public establishments.
- f. Driver of any means of transport if disease is discovered or suspected to be so during the presence of the patient therein.
- g. The administrative body representative (the Wali, Sheikh or Police).

Article (4): When reporting the case of infectious disease there ought to be mention to the name of the patient or that is suspect of being infected by mentioning the triple name, the name of tribe or title, place of residency and work, purposely to enable health authorities reach him.

Article (5): The infectious diseases communicated by animals to humans as mentioned in the schedule attached to this law are to be reported, and the persons responsible for reporting such diseases are in the order as mentioned below:

1. Veterinarians or their assistants that have checked the infected animal.
2. The technical manager responsible for the ranch or the barn or the place where infection of disease took place.
3. The owner of the ranch or the barn or the place where infection of disease took place.
4. The owner of the infected animal.

The reporting in this case shall be to the concerned authority of veterinary affairs. Such authority shall report to the concerned health center during a period of time determined by the Minister of Health, as the relevant health center is obliged to take necessary health precautionary measures in this case.

Article (6): To be isolated in the hospital or the place determined by Ministry of Health any person infected or suspected to be infected by any of the infectious diseases mentioned in the first section of the attached schedule to this law, and such isolation to be decided by the concerned medical officer.

Article (7): It is permissible to Ministry of Health to isolate the persons who come into contact with other infected persons with infectious diseases mentioned in the first section of the schedule attached to this law. The isolation takes place in sites specially determined by the Ministry in accordance with what the concerned doctor decides and the time limit imposed for such cases.

Article (8): The Ministry of Health subjects persons who come into contact with the infested patients to control and health observation, and such persons who come into contact with patients have to report to medical specialized centers as the times decided by the ministry and it is permissible to isolate the persons who come into contact with patients should the nature of the infected persons or their work exposes the others to the infection.

Article (9): In the cases where the concerned medical doctor determines the possibility of treatment of infected patient by one of the infectious diseases as mentioned in sections two and three of the schedule attached to this law in place of his residency, the concerned health staff shall take necessary precautionary arrangements to protect all those who come into contact with him and subject them to health observation and control for a suitable period of time.

Article (10): The concerned medical authorities are entitled to keep away all suffering from infectious diseases or the carriers of viruses from all types of works that relate to spread of disease, like preparing, sale or transport food stuff or beverages of any kind or any other activities. All those who are kept away from amongst the mentioned above, are not permitted to re assume work unless through permission, and also to be responsible the employer or the manager that permits those subjected to be kept away as mentioned above, to continue work as mentioned.

Article (11): It is not permissible to transport those who are suffering any of the infectious diseases in section one of the schedule attached to this law, who are determined for isolation without prior permission from the Ministry of Health. However, transportation shall be through means decided by this Ministry. It is prohibited to transport or hide clothes or mattress or items or furniture etc that may cause spread of disease. The Ministry of Health is permitted to dispose of such clothes or mattress or items or furniture etc or sterilize and purge the same.

Article (12) The Ministry of Health is eligible to take necessary specimen from those who are suffering infectious disease mentioned in the schedule attached to this law or from persons who come into contact with them in order to check in the laboratories in the course of confirming that they are free of viruses.

Article (13): Authorization of the Ministry of Health's doctors and participants to assume inoculation and vaccination to persons living in the premises of such people suffering infectious diseases mentioned in the schedule attached to this law and to those who might have come into contact with them or exposed to infection in any way.

Article (14): The Minister of Health is authorized to issue a determination for compulsory inoculation and vaccination in order to protect newly born babies or a certain category of population or all inhabitants from any infectious disease as required by public health needs and such determination shall stipulate the timings and procedures to be adopted in such cases.

Article (15): With consideration to the provisions of laws and regulations, the Ministry of Health's authorized representatives are eligible to enter residences if necessary to find out infected persons or to assume procedures of inoculation and vaccination or discover any persons coming into contact with those who suffer infectious diseases or for fighting insects and rodents. They have to present their identification before accessing such premises as they are also entitled to ask the help and assistance from relevant authorities in this course of action.

Article (16): The Minister of Health is authorized to determine restriction for treatment of some infectious diseases mentioned in the schedule attached to the law to public and governmental health facilities and prohibit such treatment in private hospitals or clinics.

Article (17): In the cases of burials, transport or repatriate remains of the dead that suffered infectious diseases as mentioned in the schedule attached to this law, subject that limitation thereof is decided upon by the Minister of Health, the precautionary procedures are to be taken as decided by the Ministry of Health.

Article (18): In case any infectious disease appears and becomes threatening to the public health, the Minister of health or whom he ever authorizes shall have exclusive powers to protect the country from hazards of disease spreading in coordination with relevant authorities.

Article (19): To be punished all that who shall not report an infectious disease according to provisions of articles (2, 3, and 5) of this law with imprisonment not exceeding 6 months and fine of 100 Rials Omani or one of such punishments without prejudice to any more stronger punishment so determined through another law.

Article (20): Without prejudice to article (19) of this law, to be punished with a fine not less than 20 Rials Omani and not more than 50 Rials Omani all that who violates any provision of this law or the ministerial decisions in execution thereupon.

The schedule of infectious diseases

Section one

1. AIDS syndrome.
2. Cholera of all types.
3. Plague of all kinds.
4. Poliomyelitis.
5. Newly born tetanus.
6. Diphtheria.
7. Meningitis & streptococcus.
8. Yellow fever (transmitted from animals to human beings)
9. Rabies (transmitted from animals to human beings)
10. Typhus (transmitted from animals to human beings)
11. Relapsing fever (transmitted from animals to human beings)

Section two

1. Measles.
2. Whooping cough.
3. Hepatitis of all types.
4. Typhoid and Para Typhoid
5. German measles.
6. Scarlet fever.
7. Respiratory system infection (sore throat) and relevant cause if proved in laboratory.
8. Leprosy of all types.
9. Syphilis.
10. Dengue fever
11. Bilharzias.

12. Tinea.
13. Elephantiasis.
14. Intestinal catarrh (transmitted from animals to human beings)
15. Tuberculosis of all types (transmitted from animals to human beings)

Section three

1. Dysentery
2. Diarrhea.
3. Smallpox.
4. Mumps.
5. Trachoma
6. Infectious venereal diseases
7. Influenza.
8. Malaria.
9. Pneumonia.
10. Brain inflammation.